

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 40-47 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 26-39 are canceled without prejudice to and/or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 40-47 are independent and newly added. Support for the additional claims can be found as follows:

Newly Added Claim	Support
40	Claims 22+26
41	Claims 22+26+27
42	Claims 22+26+28
43	Claims 22+26+29
44	Claims 30+34
45	Claims 30+34+35
46	Claims 30+34+36
47	Claims 30+34+37

Claims 22-25, 30-33 and 38-39 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kikuchi et al (EP 909001 A2) ("Kikuchi").

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

II. Pending Claims/Allowable Subject Mater

The Office Action indicates that claims 26-29 and 34-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 26-29 and 34-37 are rewritten in independent form as claims 40-47.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 40-47 are in condition for allowance.

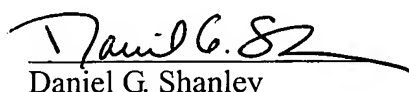
III. Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, the Applicant respectfully submit that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4420 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 28, 2008

By:


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